



# H1N1 Provider Briefing

Date: December 16, 2009  
To: All Healthcare Providers  
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Re: Information on H1N1 in Rhode Island

**Local Influenza Activity Level:** Regional<sup>1</sup>; H1N1 predominant circulating strain  
**Rhode Island**<sup>2</sup>: 355 hospitalized cases, 9 deaths  
**Sentinel Surveillance (% of visits due to influenza-like illness)**<sup>3</sup>: Rhode Island: 2.37%, New England Region: 2.10%, Nation: 2.74%

## Voluntary recall of certain lots of Sanofi Pasteur H1N1 pediatric vaccine

HEALTH is aware of a voluntary recall of certain lots of H1N1 pediatric vaccine manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur. In Rhode Island, the only vaccine doses affected by this recall are the 0.25mL pre-filled syringes (normally referred to as "baby flu") from lot numbers UT030CA and UT028CB. This vaccine is approved for use for children ages 6 through 35 months. This recall is not related to concerns over the safety of the vaccine, and children who received their first doses from the affected lots will be fully protected after receiving their second doses. **Today, HEALTH sent out a memo with more information about the recall to all practices that received vaccine from the affected lots.** HEALTH will also be contacting these practices via telephone by the end of this week with more information on bringing any remaining affected inventory directly to The Wellness Company for a vaccine exchange.

## H1N1 flu-related deaths in Rhode Island

The number of confirmed H1N1 flu-related deaths in Rhode Island remains at nine. During a HEALTH press briefing on December 15, 2009, the recent death of a Rhode Islander with influenza-like illness, possibly due to H1N1, was reported and remains under investigation.

## Registration deadline extended for clinic for out-of-state college students

Rhode Islanders through 24 years of age who attend out-of-state colleges can now pre-register, through December 21, for an H1N1 flu vaccination clinic. Students should note that this date represents a deadline extension. The clinic will run sometime between December 26, 2009 and January 8, 2010. HEALTH will announce the exact date, location, and hours of operation of the clinic in the coming weeks. Students can register online at <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/schoolh1n1clinics/outofstatecollegeclinics/index.php>.

## First round of school-based H1N1 vaccination clinics concludes

This week HEALTH completed a very successful first round of its school-based H1N1 flu vaccination program. More than 113,000 children from kindergarten through grade 12 received the H1N1 vaccine at 421 school-based clinics. The first round of the program spanned six weeks and 28 school days. Of the students enrolled in schools that hosted clinics during this time period, approximately three-fourths received the vaccine. In mid January, HEALTH will begin a second round of school-based H1N1 vaccination clinics for elementary school students younger than 10 years old at the time that they received their first shots. Children who were 10 years of age or older at the time of their first vaccination do not need second doses of H1N1 vaccine.

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<sup>1</sup> Rhode Island reported regional activity for the week of December 6 to December 12, 2009. Elevated influenza-like illness and influenza lab confirmed cases were reported in two counties. For details see <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/surveillance/>.

<sup>2</sup> Confirmed and probable H1N1 hospitalizations and deaths since September 1, 2009

<sup>3</sup> Influenza-like illness activity reported by 27 sentinel surveillance sites from November 29 to December 5, 2009

### **H1N1 vaccination for school-aged children in providers' offices**

As of today, December 16, pediatricians and family physicians may begin administering H1N1 vaccine to school-aged children who missed their **first doses** at their schools' H1N1 vaccination clinics. HEALTH is still planning to provide second doses of H1N1 vaccine to school-aged children (K-12) who are younger than 10 years of age in a second round of school-based clinics in January and February. Children who were 10 years of age and older at the time of their first vaccination do not require second doses of H1N1 vaccine.

### **Questions and answers about reporting H1N1 doses administered**

Weekly electronic reporting of H1N1 doses administered is a requirement for participation in the H1N1 vaccine program. HEALTH has developed a set of questions and answers about the reporting process to help providers report doses administered in a timely fashion. This document is attached to this briefing and is also available on HEALTH's website at

<http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/WeeklyH1N1DosesAdministeredReporting.pdf>.

### **Holiday Provider Briefing and Information Line schedule**

Over the next three weeks, HEALTH will release one weekly Provider Briefing on Tuesdays (December 22, December 29, and January 5).

HEALTH's H1N1 Information Line (401-222-8022) will close at noon on December 24 and December 31 and will be closed all day on December 25 and January 1. The Information Line will otherwise keep its normal hours this holiday season – Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Responders on this line are prepared to answer H1N1-related questions in English and Spanish.

### **Resources**

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>;
- Archived provider briefings and regular news updates: <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/flu/>
- H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- H1N1 email address [h1n1@health.ri.gov](mailto:h1n1@health.ri.gov)
- <http://www.flu.gov>